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CONTENTS

FEATURES

16

BOBBY PETRINO

Coach Fisher hires a new offensive coordinator.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

18

Q&A WITH COACH SCHLOSSNAGLE

Aggie baseball coach previews new season.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

21

COACH JAMIE MORRISON

Bjork hires a new volleyball coach.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

22

JIMBO SIGNS #12 EARLY SIGNING CLASS

We break down the new football class.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

29

TEXAS A&M SPORT CLUBS

AI spotlights Women's Ultimate and Swimming Clubs.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

IN EVERY ISSUE

Publisher's Note	04
Snapshots	06
Scoreboard	12
The 12th Man	30

ON THE COVER: Tyrece "Boots" Radford elevates over Missouri defender after going coast to coast for the basket! Photo by Rob Havens '88

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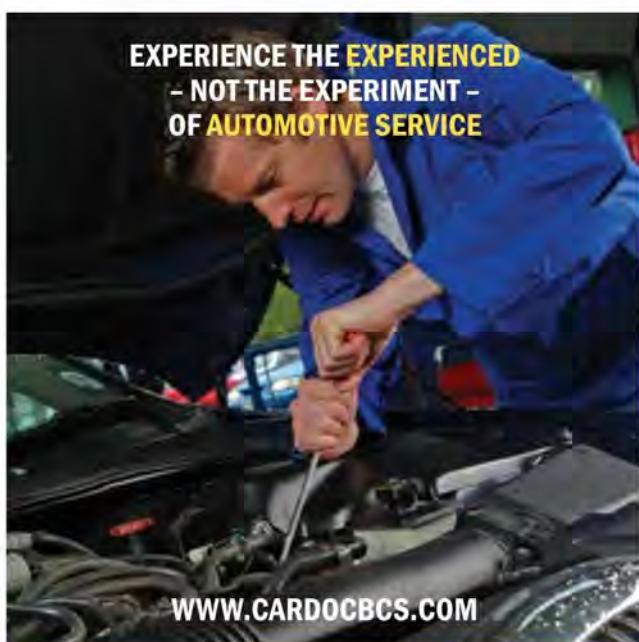
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Howdy Ags!

The football season for the Aggies ended in November with a huge win over arch-rival LSU. Jimbo Fisher and his staff wasted no time in hitting the road and securing another stellar class for Texas A&M. Inside this issue we break down the new early signing class which is loaded with talent.

Jimbo has already signed a couple of big-time players in a position of need via the transfer portal as well. Former five-star recruit Tony Grimes from the University of North Carolina joins the Aggies, as well as a former four-star cornerback from Florida State, Sam McCall.

Coach Fisher also hired former SEC Head Coach Bobby Petrino as his new offensive coordinator. We had several players make the decision to transfer but we also got great news from players that decided to come back and play another year. Safety Demani Richardson, running back Earnest Crownover III, tight end Max Wright, linebacker Edgerrin Cooper and offensive lineman, Layden Robinson, all announced that they would return in 2023 to play for the Aggies.

Ross Bjork hired a new volleyball coach, Jamie Morrison. You can read about the hire in this issue. Welcome to Aggieland Coach Morrison!

The biggest story on campus right now is the resurgence of the men's basketball team. Last night the Aggies won their seventh game in a row in front of a capacity crowd at Reed Arena. The Aggies took down Florida for the second time this season. The team is undefeated through five games in the SEC and is playing some inspired basketball. The students returned on Tuesday and were treated to an exciting win by the Aggies the following day. If they can keep this up, then they should be dancing in March.

Aggie Baseball is right around the corner and we got to visit with Coach Schlossnagle before the season. The Aggies are ranked #4 in Collegiate Baseball's Preseason Poll. Once again, the Aggies face a gauntlet of talented teams this spring but with most of the talent back from last year's squad, we hope to see this team in Omaha again!

Please enjoy this issue and thanks for your support of Aggieland Illustrated!

Gig'em Ags!

Rob '88



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BOOOOTS

Senior guard, Tyrece Radford, gets some airtime on his way to score a bucket for the Aggies. In his second year with the program, he has become one of Coach Williams' most dependable players. Whatever you need him to do, he is willing to do it and he always shows up in the biggest moments of the game.

Photo by Rob Havens '88





DANCE CHAMPS

The Aggie Dance Team won the College Classic DIA Team Performance National Championship last spring in Orlando, Florida. These young ladies work hard throughout the year to entertain the 12th Man at basketball, baseball, and volleyball games. Photo by Rob Havens '88





MISSION COMPLETE

Wade Taylor IV slides across the floor after drawing the fifth foul of Missouri Tiger defender, D'Moi Hodge. Facing a ferocious pressing defense that erased a 21-point lead, the Aggies battled back for an 18-point win over the 20th-ranked team. Taylor drew a couple of late fouls and knocked down some free throws to seal the victory.

Photo by Rob Havens '88



KAY KAY
GREEN



AALIYAH
PATTY



MCKINZIE
GREEN



ERINY
KINDRED

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Just over halfway through the season and our team is having a tough year. At 5-11 overall and 0-6 in conference play, Coach Joni Taylor's team has been hit hard by the injury bug. The team has had to compete with just 7 available players throughout the SEC schedule so far. Taylor's slogan for this year is "Becoming", and she knew from the start that this would be a rebuilding year. She hoped that with lots of hard work and determination, the squad would become the team that she believes it could be. That task would have been tough without the injuries, but now has become a monumental task. Regardless, she is proud of the lady's buy-in and their hard work to get better every day.



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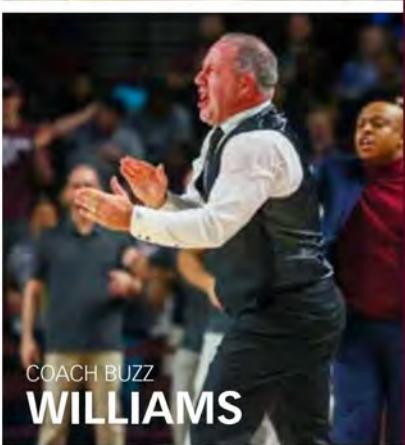
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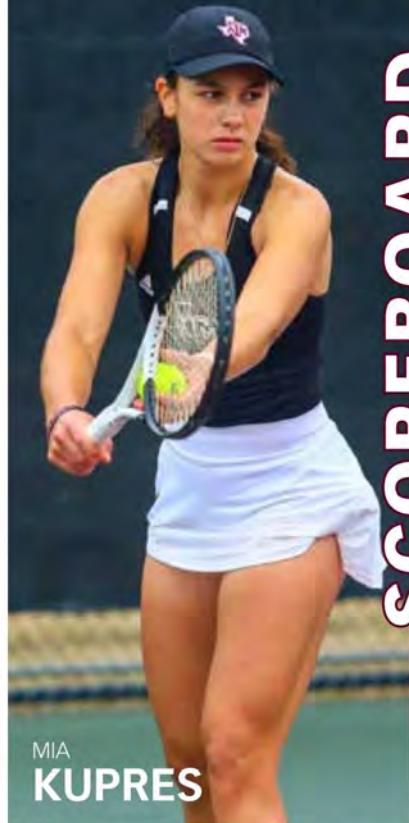
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JIMBO FISHER ADDS **BOBBY PETRINO** TO STAFF

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Five and a half weeks after relieving Darrell Dickey of his duties, Jimbo Fisher announced the hiring of Bobby Petrino as the Aggies' new offensive coordinator. "I am very happy to add Bobby as our offensive coordinator," Fisher said. "I always had tremendous respect for him as a head coach, offensive coordinator, and play caller. He is one of the best minds in college football. Bobby has a reputation for developing players and we are extremely excited to have him on our staff."

In 2021 ESPN ranked Petrino as one of the top college football coaches throughout the past 50 years. Only three weeks before accepting the job here at A&M, he had been hired by UNLV for the same position. His last coaching stint was at FCS Missouri State where he was the head coach for three years, accumulating a record of 18-15.

Petrino was the head coach at the University of Louisville on two separate occasions. He led the Cardinals from 2003-2006, compiling a 41-9 record and an Orange Bowl victory. In 2014, he returned for five seasons and had 77 wins and 35 losses during his tenure.

Coach Petrino coached the Atlanta Falcons for the majority of one season before resigning with a 3-10 record. He comes to College Station with SEC experience, having been the head coach for four years at Arkansas.

Petrino has directed his college teams to nine bowl

games. He led the Cardinals and the Razorbacks to BCS bowl games. He has had four ten-win seasons. Under the tutelage of Petrino, Lamar Jackson won the Heisman trophy in 2016. In that same year, the Cardinals hammered the second-ranked Florida State team led by Jimbo Fisher 63-20.

His best seasons as a head coach were in 2004 when he led Louisville to an 11-1 record and in 2006 when they went 12-1. In his fourth season as head coach of the Razorbacks, Petrino went 11-2 with a win in the Cotton Bowl and the Hogs finished No. 5 in the country.

Over his career, Petrino has developed a reputation for putting up big offensive numbers. In 2013 he became the head football coach of Western Kentucky and led them to a school record 5,502 yards during the season as they compiled a record of 8-4. In 2004, Louisville led the country in total offense (539.0) and scoring offense (49.8) while posting 50 or more points in seven games and setting an NCAA record by scoring 55 or more points in five straight games.

In 2022, the Aggies were 94th in the country in offensive yards per game (360.7) and averaged only 22.8 points per game. Jimbo is hoping that Petrino can generate the spark we need to move back to the top in offensive production. ■



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Q&A

COACH SCHLOSSNAGLE



WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST KEY TO THE SUCCESS YOU HAD IN SEASON ONE?

I would say several things. We certainly had a group of people that decided to stay at Texas A&M with a lot of unknowns. But, we also had a group of people, including myself, that came to Texas A&M, and everyone was fully onboard, committed, and connected to the same goal. I think anytime you have that kind of connection on your team, the leadership and synergy you know is going to allow you to reach your potential goal, but also handle adversity. One of the great stats from our season last year is that we only lost back-to-back games one time. Which is tough at any level of college baseball but in the SEC, it's hard to do. I think from a pure baseball standpoint we were a very average team on the mound, a below-average team defensively, and that's not what we want to be in the coming years. But we had a deep and committed offense that was tough to pitch to and some really good hitters. Dettmer had a pretty good season and Micah Dallas showed some stuff and did okay. But our pitching staff was built on Menefee and Palisch. These guys got a lot of big outs for us and covered up a lot of innings in different ways. There are a lot of things that go into a good season like that. I think for the most part, we stayed healthy and that was big. You just had great leadership from guys like Troy Claunch and Jacob Palisch.

IN AN INTERVIEW I DID WITH TREVOR WERNER LAST YEAR, I ASKED HIM WHAT THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE WAS BETWEEN THE COACHING STAFF FROM THE PREVIOUS REGIME TO NOW. HE RESPONDED BY SAYING, THE ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND YOUR ABILITY TO KNOW WHAT EACH PLAYER NEEDED TO WORK ON. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THAT?

Well, first of all, that's my job. (laughs) It is to be fully invested in the players and we're not just trying to win games, we are trying to develop players. You know I think I get to see these guys every single day, so you see the things they are good at and you see the areas they need to improve. Then you also compare them to past great players that you've coached and guys that have made the major leagues. I've always said I've learned way more from players that I've coached than they have from me. So when you've been around the greatest of the great, you see how they work, and the skill sets they have, then you can use that to help all of the other players. I don't play golf. I don't have any hobbies, outside of my faith and my family, that's all I think about. How can we help these guys get better? Because if we do that then the scoreboard will take care of itself.

AT WHAT POINT DO YOU THINK THINGS CHANGED LAST YEAR AFTER THE TOUGH START?

I think the biggest thing was the Wednesday morning after we lost to Houston. Before we were going to LSU, Austin Bost walked into my office and said, "Coach I can play second base." We hit him ground balls for two days and he hadn't taken one ground ball there up until that point and then we start him in our first SEC weekend at second base. The thing everybody forgets is we lost our starting shortstop, Kalae Harrison, for pretty much most of the season. Werner, who I think is our overall most physically talented player, missed 60% of the year. I mean, he played hurt even in Omaha, but he still wasn't right. So we went from what I thought was going to be a really good defensive infield to a really bad one. But we are still trying to get all of the bats in the lineup. When Bost walked in and said, "Coach I can play second base" we just kind of threw our hands up in the air and said, "alright we can't be any worse." So that made our lineup better, and deeper. Then we went to LSU with some enthusiasm. There's a lot about going on the road that is fun because it's kind of you against the world. Your team

kind of draws together and Dettmer was good that first night. Rock hit a home run in the first inning. I think guys just started to believe in themselves a little bit.

COULD YOU HAVE EVER IMAGINED THAT IN YEAR ONE YOU WOULD MAKE IT FURTHER THAN THIS PROGRAM HAS EVER GONE?

I mean honestly this time last year (laughs), I'll tell you we have a couple of coaches' wives that said, "Coach we are going to Omaha this year." I said, "If we go to Omaha I'll buy you all new Aggie cowboy boots. So I had to pay up on that bet for about eight pairs of boots at the end of the year. Not that I was betting against our team but... I was very confident in the kind of people we had in the program. You know Coach Childress is to be complimented for the kind of program he was running. All the guys we inherited were disciplined and have great character. The guys we brought in from the transfer standpoint were the same, and I think you win first with good people, and then it was going to come down to how we played. We had really good people and guys committed to the same goal. But to say this time last year that you're going to finish third in the College World Series, yeah that would have shocked me. But those guys went out, played it, and they earned it.

FROM A FAN'S PERSPECTIVE, WE HADN'T WON A GAME IN OMAHA IN FOREVER. THEN YOU WIN ARGUABLY THE BIGGEST GAME IN PROGRAM HISTORY OVER TEXAS ON THE BIGGEST STAGE, TELL ME ABOUT THAT.

With me being new to A&M, you know I've been a part of playing Texas every year as a member of the big 12. It didn't mean as much to me as it did to the 12th man, which I understand. I was just trying to find a way to keep our team alive by trying to win a national championship. (laughs) It's hard to get to Omaha and when you get there you don't just want to be a participant, you

want to win the thing, or at least I do. I wasn't really thinking about it that way, but I certainly know what it means to Aggie fans and former players. If you told me the next time, we go we have to lose to Texas but we win the national championship, eventually coming back through the losers bracket, then I'll take that. The bottom line is to be the last team standing.

BUT I'M SURE YOU'VE FOUND OUT SINCE THEN HOW BIG THAT WAS FOR US.

Oh yeah, there's no doubt. I'm not trying to downplay that. I understand that. It was great, then beating Notre Dame and getting deeper in the tournament was awesome too. My point is that is not the ultimate goal.

HOW IMPORTANT WAS IT TO KEEP YOUR COACHING STAFF TOGETHER? ESPECIALLY AFTER THE JOB THAT EARLEY DID WITH OUR BATS. THE WAY COLLEGE BASEBALL IS, WHEN YOU DO A GREAT JOB OTHER TEAMS COME AFTER YOU. HOW IMPORTANT WAS IT TO KEEP THIS STAFF TOGETHER?

It was essential. It had to happen. It speaks a lot about the kind of place A&M is. It speaks a lot about living in Bryan/College Station. We have 11 children on our coaching staff under the age of 11 or so. They all love it here. It's a great place to raise a family. I think Michael sees that. That's not going to be the case forever because you want all those guys to have the professional opportunities that they think are best for their careers, but in terms of the continuity of our staff, trying to build on what we did last year, yeah it was essential to keep everybody together.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS YEAR. HOW HUGE WAS IT TO GET BOST, MINNICH, AND WERNER BACK?

Your best recruits are always your returning players so those are the guys that we focused on in the

late spring. Certainly, want them to have the professional baseball opportunities they desire, but at the same time you know we want them back. If it's not a great opportunity that really benefits you long term, then the best long-term decision is to finish school, so you don't have to come back. Having them back is great. They are all three really good players, they are great people, good leaders, and all of that. There's no question they were the top three recruits.

WITH 35 DAYS LEFT UNTIL OPENING DAY, IF I ASKED YOU TO WRITE ME A LINEUP WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE?

There are certainly five or six guys you'd have to think are going to be in that, guys that were on the team last year; Werner, Bost, Targac, Moss, Minnich, Thompson. You would think those guys would be in it, barring injury. We still have wide-open competition in the outfield, at shortstop, behind the plate, and throughout the pitching staff. I don't think I could give you a lineup today. Certainly, those guys returning from last year will be a big part of it.

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE BEHIND THE PLATE AT THIS POINT?

You got three guys: 2 junior college transfers; JD Gregson and Hank Bard. One's a right-handed hitter and one's a left-handed hitter. One of our 2023 commits graduated early and is coming this semester, named Max Kaufer. It's a wide-open competition and no one has won anything yet. They all bring different things to the table. They should all three get an opportunity during the first four or five weeks of the season. Hopefully by conference play or near that, we get an idea about what we want to do back there. There's never been a good baseball team without a good catcher. Troy Claunch was as good as I've coached, as great of a leader as I've coached. Obviously, he was a good player, replicating that it's not going to be done by just one person, but likely by a couple of people.

WHAT ABOUT AT SHORTSTOP?

Hunter Haas, a transfer from Arizona State, and Kaeden Kent a freshman from Lake Travis. I think those two guys are competing for that job. They are both going to get to play. Kaeden really has a chance to be a great player in this program over time. And Hunter is a guy we have all known for a very long time, who has performed at a very high level when he is healthy. He spent most of the season hurt at Arizona State last year. Mike Earley had a great connection with him and believes in him, which that's why he is here.

TELL ME ABOUT JACE LAVIOLETTE.

6'5, big, strong, can run, and big power. He's the kind of guy you want to come to school. You know, fight the draft and have him come to school. He's an outstanding young man. He is selfless and he has a great energy about him. He's very fired up to be here. He along with Kent and a couple of other guys are who we are trying to build this program around. Jace is certainly going to be an impact player for us, more than likely in the outfield. He is super talented, and he has all the tools. He's going to get challenged in this conference like every player does, but we think he has as good a chance as anybody to be an outstanding player in the SEC.

ON THE MOUND, YOU HAVE DETTMER AND THEN YOU HAVE CHRIS CORTEZ, WHO WAS THROWING UPPER 90S IN THE FALL.

Dettmer, getting him back is big. We need to keep him healthy and strong. He needs to take another step, especially from a mentality standpoint to become an elite Friday night SEC pitcher. Chris is a talented guy, super competitive, a great teammate, got a good arm, and just needs to continue to evolve as a pitcher, commanding his pitches and his off-speed pitches you know those kinds of things. Of the returning pitchers, we have Brad

Rudis, who got a lot of big outs for us last year. He will be in the mix. Will Johnston has taken a good step and he pitched great for us out of the bullpen last year. He can pitch in a variety of roles, a couple of freshmen left-handed pitchers Justin Lamkin and Shane Sdao, those guys throw a lot of strikes, which I always love. Troy Wansing is a transfer out of Purdue. We have some left-handed options in that bullpen, but it's just a matter of who's going to step forward in pre-season practice and in the first four weeks of the season to win a job. I would say there are more good pitchers to choose from, but other than Dettmer, nobody has separated themselves yet to say, "yeah I'm going to pitch in this role or I'm going to pitch in that role."

HOW IMPORTANT WAS IT FOR DETTMER TO COME OUT AND HAVE SUCCESS VS NOTRE DAME IN THE CWS AFTER HIS FIRST OUTING?

Obviously, it was enormous that he pitched great and kept our season alive. Nathan is a great young man, he just has to learn how to have the mentality of the number one starter. There's a difference between being a Boy Scout and a bounty hunter, and he's got the Boy Scout figured out. It's the bounty hunter we need to get more of from him to really take the next step. A sign of a good pitcher is he's able to beat a good team even without his best stuff. Dettmer is capable of that, he just needs to keep getting better.

HOW IMPORTANT WAS THE TRANSFER PORTAL TO FILLING IN HOLES, CREATING SOME DEPTH, AND THE THINGS YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO MAKE ANOTHER RUN THIS YEAR?

It was important. We didn't hit it as much as we did when we first got here. We like to create an avenue for young players to develop in this program. But, at the same time, you are trying to win every year. So it's a constant balance. Haas, Wansing, Lambert, Brandyn Garcia are neat people. You don't want to mess

up the chemistry of the program and it's nice to cherry-pick that as needed. It's not the way we want to do things moving forward. We are going to lose a lot off this team after this year because it's such an older team, and we will probably hit it again. Ideally, you want young players like Kent, LaViolette, Kasen Wells, and Tab Tracy. You would like those freshmen and sophomores to eventually evolve in your program. That is how you build and maintain your program with good high school players.

LAST QUESTION, YOU SAID WHEN YOU CAME HERE THE CHALLENGE OF COMPETING IN THE SEC WAS A BIG DRAW. AFTER ONE SEASON, TELL ME WHAT THAT'S BEEN LIKE. YOU KNOW THE BIG 12 WAS REALLY GOOD BASEBALL BUT THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE SEC.

Yeah the SEC is the big league of college baseball, it is. Until you've been a part of it, it's hard to understand. Every single team and program has great coaches. You're not going to sneak by anybody. This is a league you must play well to win, you can't play average and win. The players are so talented, the coaches are good, the atmospheres are tough. Mentally, it is a challenge every single day. Great players and coaches should run toward that not away from it. I came here because I wanted to challenge myself in those arenas. (laughs) It is a beat down, there is no doubt about it. But, it's a great life experience, and there is a part of it that's really fun. ■



COACH JAMIE MORRISON



BRINGS CHAMPIONSHIP EXPERIENCE TO AGGIE VOLLEYBALL

BY ROB HAVENS '88

When Director of Athletics, Ross Bjork, decided to make a change in the leadership of our volleyball program, he believed that he needed a new approach. Bjork explained, "As we studied the landscape of college volleyball and assessed our program, it became abundantly clear that we had to strategize differently and envision a new approach and a new era for our program."

As he looked for candidates and evaluated the marketplace, the same name kept coming up, Jamie Morrison. He was born in Laguna Beach, California, and earned a bachelor's degree in business economics from UC Santa Barbara. The three-time Olympic medal-winning coach has built an impressive coaching resume over the past 23 years. He has winning experience at every level including the collegiate, national and international levels.

Bjork was impressed from the start and his impression only grew stronger. "As we got to know Jamie during the process, it became apparent that his leadership ability, knowledge of the game, recruiting ties across the globe and in Texas, and his ability to connect to the entire volleyball community would be a perfect fit for this specific time and place in the history of Texas A&M volleyball."

Deputy Athletics Director, Kristen Brown, added, "From my first conversation with Jamie, he immediately impressed me and stood out as someone who could elevate our program. He has coached the sport at the highest levels; his knowledge of the game and ability to develop players is unmatched; and he has a unique ability to connect and get the best out of everyone around him. As we talked about our collective vision for Texas A&M volleyball and the shared values and goals we have, it became clear he was the perfect fit to lead our program."

On Friday, December 16th Ross Bjork announced that Coach Morrison would be the new leader of our volleyball program. "We are so excited to welcome Coach Jamie Morrison to Texas A&M as our head volleyball coach."

Coach Morrison can't wait to get started. "What excites me about this opportunity is the tradition that separates Texas A&M from other universities, along with the foundation that has been built by the people that came before me," Morrison said. "I know Laurie Corbelli well, I know Bird (Kuhn) well, and what they built is a foundation and a team capable of great things. I'm looking forward to the challenge of taking it to a championship level. I'm excited about the people – both the players on the team and the administration. My dealings with Ross and Kristen have led me to believe that Texas A&M is a great place to call home." Morrison added, "The 12th Man should expect a team that is entertaining to watch, plays with passion and fire, plays good volleyball, and respects the game for the beautiful thing that it is."

Before coming to Aggieland, Morrison served on a trio of Olympic medal-winning coaching staffs working with the U.S. Men's National Volleyball Team that won gold in 2008 and the U.S. Women's National Volleyball Team that won silver in 2012 and bronze in 2016. At the collegiate level, Morrison was a part of the coaching staff at the University of Texas that went 38-2 and earned a spot in the 2020 NCAA Championship match.

He served as the head coach of the Netherlands Women's National Volleyball team which was ranked No. 6 in the world. He also served as an assistant coach for both the men's and women's USA Volleyball teams, working alongside coaching icon, Karch Kiraly, from 2005-2016. In addition to his time at Texas, he has coached at UC Irvine, Concordia, USC, and UC Santa Barbara, helping lead three of those teams to the national semi-finals or finals. ■



RECRUITING CLASS

***** 2023

STACKING IT UP

How the Ags' 2023 recruiting class ranks in the SEC.

1		7		9	
2		8		10	
3					
4					
5					
6					



RUEBEN OWENS



NAUIL
BETRAND



CHANTZ
JOHNSON



CHASE
BISONTIS

NAUIL 
BETRAND

POSITION	OFFENSIVE LINE
HEIGHT	6'6"
WEIGHT	340
HIGH SCHOOL	NORTHEAST
HOMETOWN	PHILADELPHIA, PA.
Helped lead Northeast to a 9-3 record in 2022; Earned varsity letters as a senior and junior at Northeast; Played his sophomore season at West Catholic High School in Philadelphia.	

CHANTZ 
JOHNSON

POSITION	OFFENSIVE LINE
HEIGHT	6'1"
WEIGHT	210
HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE STATION
HOMETOWN	COLLEGE STATION, TX
Totaled 70 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, two sacks, two pass breakups and one interception as a senior; Also runs track as a member of the 4x100m and 4x200m relay teams that won district titles as a junior.	

DALTON 
BROOKS

POSITION	DEFENSIVE BACK
HEIGHT	6'0"
WEIGHT	180
HIGH SCHOOL	SHINER
HOMETOWN	SHINER, TX
Totaled 2,519 yards on 210 carries and 36 touchdowns with seven receptions for 236 yards and five scores as a senior; Added 120 tackles, 8.0 tackles for loss, two interceptions and one forced fumble in 2022.	

DAVID 
HICKS

POSITION	DEFENSIVE LINE
HEIGHT	6'4"
WEIGHT	270
HIGH SCHOOL	KATY PAETOW
HOMETOWN	KATY, TX
Three-sport athlete who plays basketball and throws shotput and discus; Had 62 tackles, including 23 TFL with 3 sacks and 2 fumble recoveries; 2023 Under Armour & Polynesian Bowl Selection.	

CHANTZ 
JOHNSON

POSITION	LINEBACKER
HEIGHT	6'1"
WEIGHT	210
HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE STATION
HOMETOWN	COLLEGE STATION, TX
Totaled 70 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, two sacks, two pass breakups and one interception as a senior; Also runs track as a member of the 4x100m and 4x200m relay teams that won district titles as a junior.	

RYLAN 
KENNEDY

POSITION	DEFENSIVE END
HEIGHT	6'3"
WEIGHT	210
HIGH SCHOOL	LAKE RIDGE
HOMETOWN	MANSFIELD, TX
Recorded 61 tackles, 10.0 tackles for loss, 5.0 sacks, one pass break up and one interception as a senior; Was a multi-sport athlete competing in basketball and track & field.	



RUEBEN
OWENS



MARCEL
REED

RUEBEN 
OWENS

POSITION	RUNNING BACK
HEIGHT	5'11"
WEIGHT	190
HIGH SCHOOL	EL CAMPO
HOMETOWN	EL CAMPO, TX
2022 Dave Campbell's Mr. Texas Football Top 10 finalists; Eclipsed 7,000 rushing yards and 100 rushing touchdowns during his high school career; Also competes in track & field.	

JADEN 
PLATT

POSITION	TIGHT END
HEIGHT	6'5"
WEIGHT	230
HIGH SCHOOL	EATON
HOMETOWN	HASLET, TX
Caught 54 passes for 919 yards and 10 touchdowns throughout his career; Earned UIL 6A Honorable Mention all-state honors as a junior.	

MARCEL 
REED

POSITION	QUARTERBACK
HEIGHT	6'1"
WEIGHT	171
HIGH SCHOOL	MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY
HOMETOWN	NASHVILLE, TN
Finished his career with 6,357 yards passing and 62 touchdowns, while rushing for 2,277 yards and 38 scores; Led Montgomery Bell Academy to a 12-1 record and a state championship appearance.	



JADEN
PLATT



DALTON
BROOKS



DAYMION
SANFORD

BRAVION
ROGERS



POSITION DEFENSIVE BACK

HEIGHT 6'0" WEIGHT 180

HIGH SCHOOL LA GRANGE

HOMETOWN LA GRANGE, TX

Do-it-all type of player; Finished the 2022 season with 24 tackles, one interception and two pass breakups, while rushing for 258 yards on 39 carries and two scores, and 175 yards receiving on 11 catches and two touchdowns.

DAYMION
SANFORD



POSITION LINEBACKER

HEIGHT 6'2" WEIGHT 210

HIGH SCHOOL KATY PAETOW

HOMETOWN KATY, TX

Totaled 150 tackles, 25.0 sacks and five interceptions during his high school career; Helped lead Katy Paetow to a 15-1 record and the UIL 5A D-1 state title in 2021.

TJ
SHANAHAN



POSITION OFFENSIVE LINE

HEIGHT 6'4" WEIGHT 325

HIGH SCHOOL WESTLAKE

HOMETOWN AUSTIN, TX

2023 Polynesian Bowl selection; Powered Westlake to a 14-1 record and UIL 6A D-I semifinal appearance in 2022; Named District 26-6A Offensive Lineman of the Year as a senior.



BRAVION
ROGERS



SHANAHAN



MICAH

TEASE



POSITION WIDE RECEIVER

HEIGHT 5'11" WEIGHT 180

HIGH SCHOOL BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

HOMETOWN NORTH TULSA, OK

Totaled 2,025 all-purpose yards, including 1,982 yards receiving on 92 receptions and 24 touchdowns, while adding 51 tackles and five interceptions during his high school career.

JAYVON

THOMAS



POSITION DEFENSIVE BACK

HEIGHT 5'11" WEIGHT 185

HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH OAK CLIFF

HOMETOWN DALLAS, TX

Helped lead South Oak Cliff to back-to-back UIL 5A D-II state titles; Rushed for 406 yards on 33 carries and five touchdowns in 2022; Two-sport athlete that competes in track & field.

COLTON

THOMASSON



POSITION OFFENSIVE LINE

HEIGHT 6'8" WEIGHT 325

HIGH SCHOOL SMITHSON VALLEY

HOMETOWN SPRING BRANCH, TX

2023 Army All-American Bowl selection; Led Smithson Valley a district title and to the UIL 5A D-I quarterfinal round in 2022; Was named the District 12-5A Offensive Line MVP.

TYLER

WHITE



POSITION PUNTER

HEIGHT 6'4" WEIGHT 200

HIGH SCHOOL SOUTHLAKE CARROLL

HOMETOWN SOUTHLAKE TX

2023 Army All-American Bowl selection; Averaged 42.3 yards per punt, including a 62 yard long punt as a junior; Made 79 of 81 extra point attempts and 10 of 12 field goals, including a 55-yarder.

TAUREAN

YORK



POSITION LINEBACKER

HEIGHT 6'0" WEIGHT 215

HIGH SCHOOL TEMPLE

HOMETOWN TEMPLE, TX

Four-year varsity standout; Totaled 435 tackles, including 47 tackles for loss and 15 sacks, added 11 forced fumbles, six fumble recoveries and one interception during his career.





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Rec Sports

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

SWIMMING

BY ROB HAVENS '88

One of the newer clubs at Texas A&M is the Swimming Club. The team began in December of 2017 as a student organization by Ph.D. student Jeppesen Feliciano. He created the club and then worked for years to become established enough for consideration to become a recognized member of the Sport Clubs Association with Rec Sports. All his hard work paid off, and in May of 2021, the club became an official member of the Sport Clubs Association.

The current club has about 110 members. They hold team practices four times a week and compete as members of College Club Swimming against teams across the country. Their main competitions are among local club teams in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. Local opponents include University of Texas, Texas Christian University, Baylor, Texas Tech, University of North Texas, University of Texas, Dallas, and Louisiana Tech. Local competitions against these schools in the spring prepare the team for the National Championship, where they compete against over a hundred teams and 1500

swimmers.

According to Club President, Rachel Sweeney, most of the members swam competitively in high school through USA Swimming or throughout their childhood. The club allows them to continue to compete in the sport they love, to improve through collegiate level coaching, and to join a social circle full of people that share the same passion for the sport.

Sweeney has been swimming competitively since she was ten years old, and after high school, she decided to attend Texas A&M. Sweeney said, "I made the decision that I did not want to undertake the stress of continuing swimming at the NCAA level if I could even qualify. Instead, I fell in love with Texas A&M and knew this is where I wanted to go to college even if I couldn't swim for the Aggies. During freshman orientation, I learned about the team and gave it a shot, thinking it'll at least help me stay active. I quickly met some of my best friends and found a great social group. I now have the best of both worlds, getting to attend the school I love and

swimming to represent the Aggies."

We asked Sweeney what her favorite moments were so far as a member of the team. She said, "Winning the Southwest Swim League Championship last spring in our own pool was amazing." She also enjoyed the club's first Winter Formal last fall, explaining "The social event was the imagination of a few officers who wanted an excuse to dress up, and everyone who went had a great time!"

Although this is one of the newer clubs, it is already making a huge impact on many of our student athletes lives. When asked how being president of the club has affected her, Allen replied "My favorite thing is watching all of the members have those moments that make them love competitive swimming. When they make a nationals cut, when they out touch a rival at a meet, when they finally fix that technique issue that was bugging them for months. I love seeing their reaction."



WOMEN'S ULTIMATE

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Most of us have gone to the park and tossed around a Frisbee with our friends or family to have a little fun, but many folks have never experienced Ultimate Frisbee. The sport began back in 1968 when Joel Silver introduced his idea to the Columbia High School student council in Maplewood, New Jersey. A year later, the first game was played between two groups of students. Over the last 25 years, the sport has grown all over the world in over 80 countries and is also played as a professional sport.

The Women's Ultimate Club at Texas A&M was officially recognized in 2019, but according to current club president, Cheyenne Allen, Aggies have been coming together to practice and compete since 2005.

Ultimate Frisbee plays much like football with some added rules from the game of basketball. At the start of the game, each seven-player team lines up along their own end zone with one team

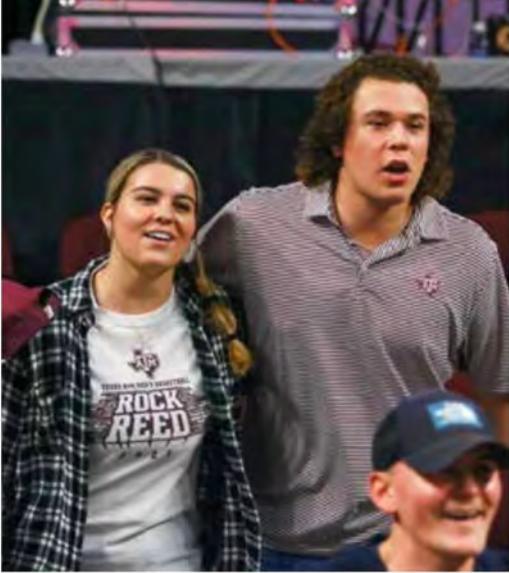
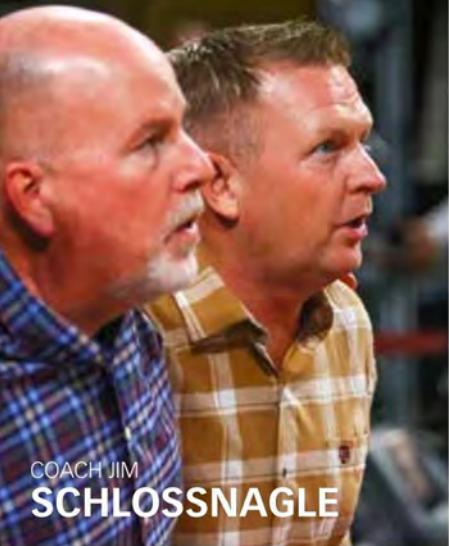
throwing the Frisbee as far as they can to initiate the receiving team's possession. This is called a "throw-off". The receiving team then passes the Frisbee amongst each other to drive down the field and pass to a teammate in the end zone, scoring one point. Much like basketball, the person carrying Frisbee cannot travel; the Frisbee must be moved by passing to an open teammate. The first team to score 13 points wins the game. If neither team earns 13 points, the team with the most points at the end of 90 minutes wins.

Tournaments are two-day events with pool play on Saturday and bracket play on Sunday. The Aggies compete in local tournaments as well as a regional tournament that will qualify them to compete in the national tournament.

Allen played sports in high school and wanted to get involved in something at Texas A&M to stay active and meet some new friends. She saw the Women's Ultimate Club booth at the MSC Open

House and decided to give it a try. She loved how welcoming the team was and told us that it has been her favorite thing about being on the team. "My favorite thing about being on the team is my other teammates," Allen said. "The relationships go so much deeper than everyone just being on a team together. We hang out outside of practice, get dinner, study, and play games and I feel like each one of the girls truly cares about the well-being of the others. I still hear from previous friends who graduated and we have many alumni who come visit us when we play in their city. We are very open and caring about each of our members and it really gave me a feeling of belonging and home."





THE 12TH MAN



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